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## Step by Step

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I knew about Dub H before coming to Iowa State, but I never expected it to be as much fun as it was!  
— Kristen Wiedenski





# STEP BY STEP

Photography: LAUREL SCOTT

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With the club approaching its ten year anniversary, it's no wonder the ISU Hip Hop Dance Club has grown into one of the largest student organizations on campus. Don't recognize the name? It might be because the common name used by active and inactive members is Dub H. Whether you think the club is popular or not, Dub H is the only club able to say they have at least one member representing each college within Iowa State.


Carin Skowronsky, founder of the club, created the term Dub H from the double H's in "hip hop." During its first semester in the fall of 2001, Dub H was able to recruit a mere thirty members. Nine years later, senior Haley Wakefield, current president of the club, now has to use two sets of technology systems just to keep track of this semester's record high of more than 500 members. This rapid expansion made it possible to afford a venue upgrade. "We have been able to move from having our show in the Forker Building on campus to a much more high-tech show in the auditorium of Ames High School," Wakefield says. "We have been able to implement more extravagant themes and a more entertaining show for our audience."

Wakefield is focused on giving her members a multifaceted and diverse outlet outside of class. The majority of members in the club are ISU students. However, faculty and community members make up a small percentage of participants. Dub H even has high school students from surrounding areas who join searching for a place of escape through hip hop.

Dub H has always stressed the importance of flexibility and accessibility. Volunteer choreographers oversee members in anywhere from seventeen to twenty dances that are showcased in the final performance. Members are allowed to be in one to four dances with each dance around four minutes in length.

The club prides itself in accepting every skill level of dance. No audition is required, only a desire to dance. "Many of our members never had the opportunity to do this kind of dancing in their hometowns while they were younger," Wakefield says.

Dub H works to strengthen members' physical, spiritual and emotional well-being. Networking, socializing, dance education and physical exercise are also common reasons why students choose Dub H over other club. Besides working to put on its final performance, Dub H is involved with raising money for the Boys and Girls Club of Story County. Throughout the semester they will perform traveling showcase programs and other fundraising activities for charity.

Students don't have to pay the semester dues to dance with Dub H; there are several free workshops offered at the beginning of each semester that allow students to loosen up and feel the beat out for themselves. 













DubH has allowed me to use my prior dance experience and expand it and grow in so many new ways.  
— Erin Good





